

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 050306Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6658

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS TOKYO 1726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, JA

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE IN CERAMIC TABLEWARE

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SETS EXPORT ALLOCATIONS FOR CERAMIC TABLEWARE ON WORLD-WIDE BASIS. JOINT USA-CANADA ALLOCATION ACCOUNTS FOR MAJORITY OF CURRENT EXPORT ALLOCATIONS, WHICH ARE BASED ON PREVIOUS YEAR'S EXPORT RECORDS AND CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. MITI OFFICIAL DESCRIBES EUROPEAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON CERAMIC TABLEWARE. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (GOJ) PLACES CONTROLS ON EXPORTS OF CERAMIC TABLEWARE BY MEANS OF EXPORT ALLOCATIONS. GOJ'S LEGAL BASIS IS EXPORT-IMPORT TRANSACTIONS LAW
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OF 1955, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO "CONTRIBUTE TO

SOUND AND PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE."
NINETEEN DIFFERENT PRODUCT CATEGORIES ARE INCLUDED
IN THIS LAW, INCLUDING CERAMICS. ALL AREAS OF WORLD
ARE INCLUDED IN EXPORT ALLOCATIONS FOR CERAMICS.

3. MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)
SETS EXPORT ALLOCATIONS BASED ON PREVIOUS YEAR'S
EXPORT RECORD AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN IMPORTING
COUNTRIES. LAW ALLOWS EXPORTERS TO MAKE AGREEMENTS
AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT PRICE, QUANTITY, QUALITY
AND DESIGNS OF PRODUCTS TO BE EXPORTED; EXPORTERS
ASSOCIATION CONSULTS WITH MITI WHEN ALLOCATIONS ARE
SET.

4. ALLOCATIONS FOR CERAMIC TABLEWARE VALUED AT LESS THAN
US\$750 PER METRIC TON (MT) ARE SET BY REGION AND
NOT BY COUNTRY, WITH EXCEPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM,
WHICH RECEIVES "SPECIAL CONSIDERATION," ACCORDING
TO MITI.

5. ALLOCATIONS FOR 1976 FOR CERAMIC TABLEWARE VALUED AT
LESS THAN US\$750 PER MT ARE AS FOLLOWS. 1972
ALLOCATIONS ARE ALSO GIVEN FOR COMPARISON:

	1976	1972
AREA I - USA AND CANADA	540,000 MT	605,000 MT
AREA II - CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	20,000	20,000
AREA III - EUROPE (EXCEPT U.K.)	60,000 MT	58,000 MT
AREA IV - OCEANIA	46,000	35,000
AREA V - OTHERS	64,000	64,000
UNITED KINGDOM	5,300	NOT PUBLICIZED BY MITI

6. ALLOCATIONS GIVEN ABOVE ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE
COMPANIES WHICH HAD EXPORTS BETWEEN PERIOD DEC. 1,
1969 TO NOV. 30, 1970. FOR COMPANIES WHICH DID NOT
HAVE EXPORT RECORDS FOR THAT PERIOD, THERE IS
ADDITIONAL 1976 ALLOCATION FOR CERAMIC WARE VALUED
AT LESS THAN US\$750 PER MT OF 73,000 MT ON WORLD-
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WIDE BASIS, NO BY REGION OR COUNTRY.

7. FOR CERAMIC TABLEWARE VALUED AT MORE
THAN US\$750 PER MT, TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR ALL COMPANIES
TO WORLD IS 190,000 MT. IN THIS CASE ALSO, THERE
ARE NO REGIONAL OR COUNTRY QUOTAS.

8. MITI SAYS ALLOCATIONS ARE NOT CHANGED DURING

YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, DEMAND FROM AUSTRALIA FOR SHIPMENTS IN 1975 WAS GREATER THAN OCEANIA ALLOCATION, BUT MITI REFUSED TO INCREASE 1975 ALLOCATION. 1976 QUOTA WAS SET AT HIGHER LEVEL, HOWEVER.

9. MITI OFFICER MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON EXPORTS TO EC COUNTRIES: UK'S ACTUAL PURCHASES ARE ALWAYS LESS THAN ALLOCATION; GERMANY IS LARGEST CUSTOMER IN EUROPE; ITALY, GERMANY AND BENELUX COUNTRIES ALL MAINTAIN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS; AND ALTHOUGH FRANCE FORMERLY MAINTAINED IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, EXPORTS TO FRANCE HAVE TRIPLED SINCE RESTRICTIONS WERE DROPPED.
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